

SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE®

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April 1, 2009

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4321

Dear Representative Smith:

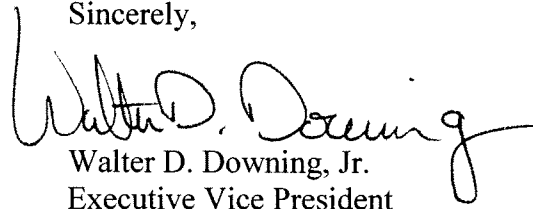
Southwest Research Institute has submitted to your office an Appropriations Request Form and supporting documents for funding in the FY-10 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill for the *Gulf Coast Emergency Health Information Network* (GCEN) project. The amount of funding requested is \$2.8 million.

This funding will support development of an emergency health information network along the Gulf Coast (Texas to Florida) to provide evacuee health information to emergency managers and shelters in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster. The critical need for this capability was underscored by the plight of many evacuees during hurricane Katrina, who relocated without access to their medical records.

The GCEN program will integrate emergency response, public health and medical systems for the planning, preparedness and response activities of state and local health organizations in the event of another public health emergency along the Gulf Coast. The urgency and importance of this capability, and the benefits to the citizens of the Gulf Coast, provide strong justification for funding with taxpayer dollars.

Your support is thus important and needed. Of the many important projects we have undertaken over the years for the public sector, this one is as compelling and timely as any.

Sincerely,



Walter D. Downing, Jr.
Executive Vice President

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through innovative science and technology."*



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